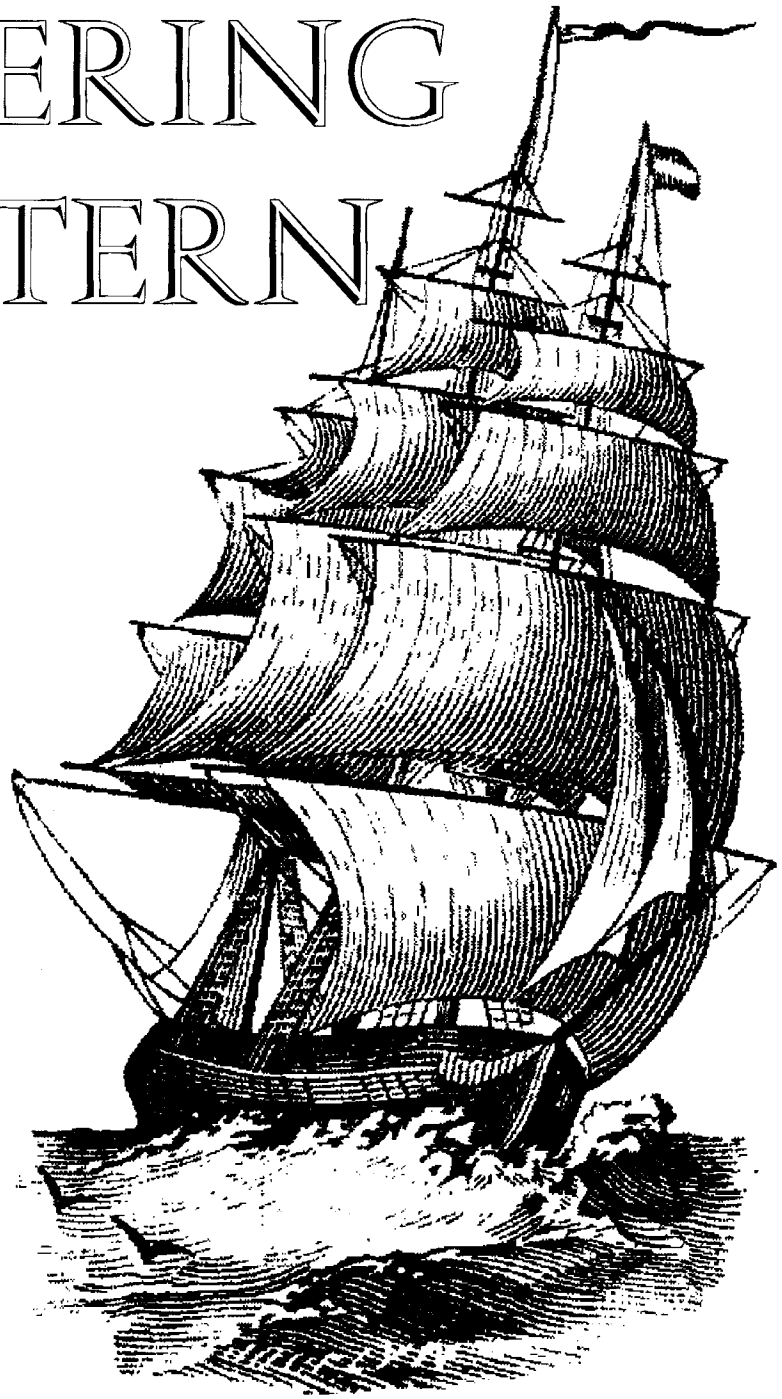
Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
for Delmarva History and Culture
Chesapeake Bay
MD

Shoreline

Vol. 10, No. 4 • September 2003

For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

DISCOVERING THE EASTERN SHORE



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Director's Dialogue

from Becky Miller

This issue of *Shoreline* focuses on the periods of discovery and settlement of America and Delmarva. You'll also find interesting articles pertaining to Delmarva and its people such as "Finding Francis" by author Elaine Palmer-McGill. Her article discusses the search for her ancestors and their journey on the Underground Railroad. I want to use this opportunity to thank the contributors of articles in this and other issues of *Shoreline*. Guest authors include Salisbury University faculty, community members and SU students. Without these kind folks graciously answering our plea for their time and talents, we would not be able to offer our readers such diverse selections. These articles offer insight into the lives and trials of those who came before us and help to build the country we call home. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I do.

On behalf of the entire Nabb Center staff, I also wanted to express our appreciation for those who support the Center in so many ways. Our dedicated board of directors generously offer their time and resources to secure funding for our staff and programming. Patrons far and near also have donated precious heirlooms such as family portraits, documents, letters, books, as well as duck and goose calls so that others may revel in the joy of seeking knowledge and understanding of Delmarva's past. We are gratified by the responses we received from individuals who answered our calls for financial support with preservation or reference needs. Finally, we are thankful to the members of the Center for your membership donations. In these times of economic woes, we are especially dependent upon your support to provide staff and services for our patrons and students. With the continued good will of the friends of the Center, we will continue to maintain a good home for all things "Delmarva" and service to our patrons.

Submissions

Anyone interested in submitting an article to the *Shoreline* newsletter should send their item to the newsletter editor as follows:

Nabb Research Center
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801

or send an e-mail to
rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

We also welcome your comments and suggestions.

Hours & Closings

HOURS
Monday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

CLOSINGS
November 27-28, 2003
Thanksgiving
December 12-January 2, 2004
Winter Break

This issue of the Shoreline is dedicated to former Salisbury University student Jamie Messick who passed away in July. Jamie was the daughter of Donna Messick, administrative assistant for the director of the Center. The staff at the Nabb Center would like to thank the donors who contributed to Jamie's memorial fund.

Shoreline

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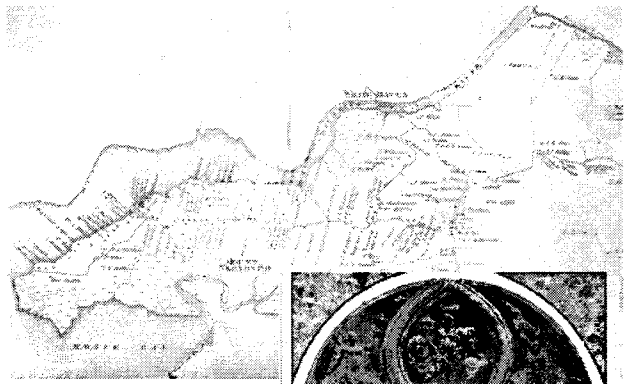

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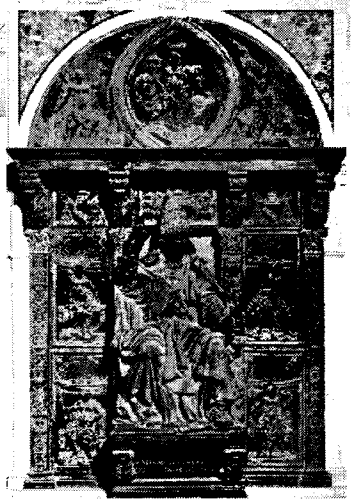

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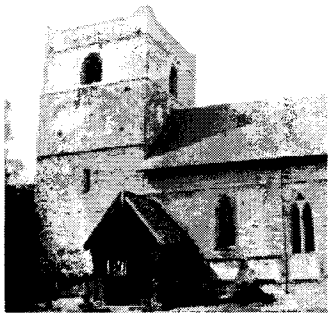
Christopher Columbus and Pope Innocent VIII

15
Blood on the Chesapeake



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Littleton Adventures Abroad

Volume 10 No. 4 September 2003

Director, Rebecca F. Miller. *Archivist,* Rebecca Brooks. *Research Assistant,* Aaron Horner. *Administrative Assistant,* Donna Messick. *Library Technician/Web Designer,* Iris Powell. *Graduate Assistants,* Mercedes Quesada-Embid and James Jensen.

This issue and back issues of the *Shoreline* may be purchased for $10 each by contacting us at 410-543-6312 or rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

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Yesterday's News

by Rebecca Brooks, Archivist

Almost every day, someone walks through the door with materials to donate to the Nabb Research Center. In past articles we have addressed what happens to the materials and the process of getting items to the shelves–be it in the archives or in the Reading Room. This month we would like to take the time to thank our patrons who go above and beyond–those who donate more than just precious materials.

Last March, the Rev. Charles E. Covington Sr. S.T.M. donated 37 volumes of the "Minutes of the Wilmington Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church," the "Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church" and the "Peninsula Annual Conference of United Methodist Church." In addition to giving us the materials, Covington provided money to have the volumes hardbound. His generous donation of materials and resources to have the volumes bound conserved the Center's funds and provided a reference tool for researchers and students.

This June, the Center was the recipient of a wonderful church ledger donated by the City of Salisbury dating from the 1880s. The ledger is from the Madison Circuit, Dover District, Delaware Conference of the Methodist-Episcopal Church. The ledger lists births, deaths and marriages, as well as Sunday school class rosters of a Dorchester County African-American congregation. Salisbury Mayor Barrie Parsons Tilghman directed the ledger to the Center, and Debbie Moxey, a Dorchester County historian from Madison, donated funds to have the ledger electronically scanned. The ledger had significant water damage and was in poor condition. Preserving the ledger involved four hours of cleaning, 15 hours of image capture and eight hours of processing and quality control. The images now must be cataloged before they will be available for patron use. Moxey's donation allowed us to create a digital surrogate, which will permit the original to remain in its present state without further deterioration.

In 2001, Janet Parker Taylor of Princess Anne donated the White Haven store ledger kept by Marcellus Jones. Kay Records, a member of the Center, donated funds and sent letters to other possible donors to solicit funds for professional conservation of this valuable piece of Delmarva history.

While donations are always appreciated, one of the best gifts patrons and members can give the Center is word of mouth. Last year our colleagues at Furnace Town referred Stanley Dennis of Williamsburg, VA, to the Nabb Research Center. Since that time, Dennis has added many unique items to our collections, most notably an 18th-century vest. Accompanying the vest was a mostly illegible note, roughly translated:

"Vest embroidered and ____ by
Mrs A __ White for Gen: F. S.
White – 1787
Mrs. P D L Fletch___"

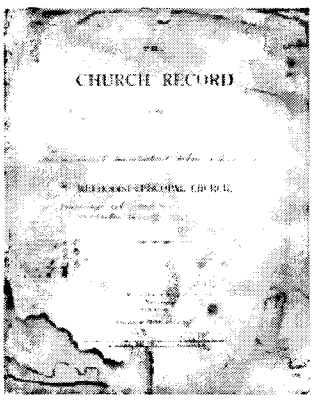
Although this note is in poor condition, it was probably written about 100 years after the vest was made. However, the note gives a slight clue as to the vest's owner or seamstress.

The condition of the note is worse than the vest itself; however, the vest has many patches of mold and mildew. Mildew can be removed from washables with sudsy water, a technique involving dry-cleaning solvent, amyl acetate, vinegar, chlorine bleach and alcohol, a regime of lemon juice and sunlight, or by soaking the item in milk. The dirt present on the cloth appears as a result of much wear, namely at the buttons. The fragile silk fibers of the vest would not withstand a modern washing.

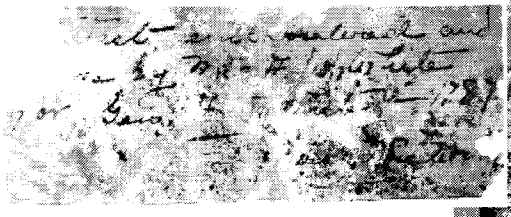
Additionally, there are stains, but because they are of unknown origin they are much harder to treat. As with many of the items we receive at the Center, cleaning the item would be risky. There are techniques that professional conservators use to clean such items, but these are expensive.

In spite of these hurdles, the vest is still one of the more beautiful pieces we have here at the Center. This example of material culture was recently featured in the Nabb Research Center's documentary produced to educate Salisbury University and other students about Colonial inventories. Not only do we thank Dennis for this great item, but we also thank Kathy Fisher, director of Furnace Town, for recommending the Center.

Donated materials are the mainstay of the Center, but please remember the other ways in which you can help: donating money for book purchases, processing and other valuable resources; donating time by volunteering; or simply spreading the word about the Center. Thanks again for all your continued support.



This is the cleaned cover of the Madison Circuit, Dover District, Delaware Conference of the Methodist-Episcopal Church ledger.



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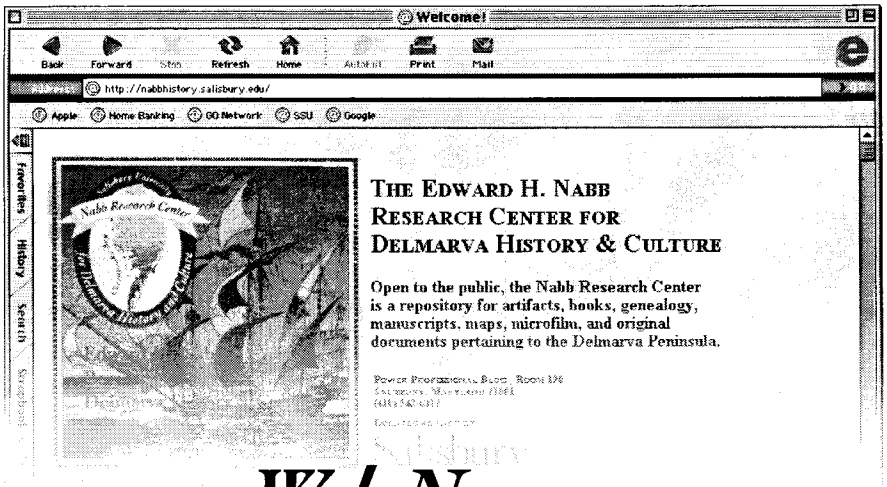

Welcome!
http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/
THE EDWARD H. NABB
RESEARCH CENTER FOR
DELMARVA HISTORY & CULTURE
Open to the public, the Nabb Research Center is a repository for artifacts, books, genealogy, manuscripts, maps, microfilm, and original documents pertaining to the Delmarva Peninsula.

Web News

by Iris Powell

"Although the written word may not have endured, the material remains of the past often have survived. They are there, waiting to fill in the missing pages of history."
Ivor Noël Hume, Historical Archaeology (1972)

Touring the Eastern Shore can be a fine adventure. We take much of the scenery for granted as we hustle up and down Route 13. And as one travels, the signs along the way beckon us to hidden treasures of history and geography. Many have surely wondered what lies at the end of that unassuming arrow indicating a small hamlet off the beaten path.

Many of these locations are now using the Internet as an invaluable tool in showcasing neglected destinations that make up the richness of the Eastern Shore. The Nabb Research Center has created a Web page, "Touring the Eastern Shore," where we have listed each Eastern Shore county Web site as well as other individual county venues.

These Web sites can be rich sources of event schedules, demographic information, tourist features, maps, government statistics and graphic images highlighting the appeal of each county. Each Eastern Shore county is represented by a unique and informative Web design. So if you cannot make the drive, at least take a virtual tour of these roads on the beautiful Eastern Shore and be inspired to take "the one less traveled by." Visit http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/. At the home page, click "Touring the Eastern Shore" in table of contents.

Upcoming Events

September 27

Nabb Center staff will be hosting a booth at the annual Pemberton Colonial Fair and Heritage Festival on September 27. Everyone is invited to visit the booth and enjoy the fair's festivities and events reminiscent of the 18th century.

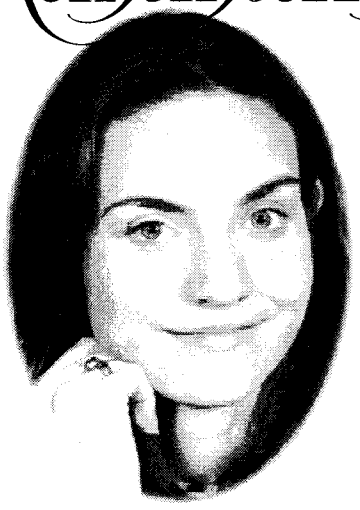
Monday, October 20

The Nabb Research Center will hold a Family History Month open house on Monday, October 20, from noon-7 p.m. for those interested in researching and sharing their family history. Participants are encouraged to bring family materials such as photos, memorabilia, Bibles and old postcards. Center staff will be available to answer genealogy questions and offer advice for performing research. For information call 410-543-6312.

Monday, November 10

In celebration of Native American History Month the Nabb Research Center will host two, pine-needle basket weaving workshop sessions on Monday, November 10. The first session will be from 1-3:30 p.m. and the second session will be from 5-7:30 p.m. Dawn Manyfeathers will demonstrate how to create a needle coil basket. No experience is necessary. The cost of the workshop is $25; however, students and Center members receive a $5 discount. Space is limited. For information call 410-543-6312.

Remembering. . .



Miss Jamie Messick

The Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture would like to extend its warmest thanks to all of those who have and who continue to contribute their time and efforts into making the center such a wonderful success for Salisbury University and our Peninsula.

The Nabb Research Center depends upon the generosity of its members. Please help us chronicle the history and culture of Delmarva by remembering the Nabb Research Center in your will, estate planning and memorial gifts.

We would like to recognize in a special way the families of Miss Jamie Messick and Mr. Richard Cooper for thinking of the Center in such a time of personal mourning.

Mr. Richard Cooper

Center Announces Launch Of Interactive Colonial Web Site

by Michael Schaefer

Somerset County between the Wicomico River and Monie Bay, modern-day Mt. Vernon.

To give researchers better access to Colonial records, the Nabb Research Center will soon bring on line the American Origins Web site–an Internet-based archive with data and maps about some of the region's earliest settlers.

Currently the on line database includes information on approximately 3,000 of the earliest settlers in Somerset County. For the early stages of the project, the staff of the Nabb Center has focused on those who lived on the neck of land between the Wicomico River and Monie Bay from 1663 to 1759. This neck land comprises the Mt. Vernon region of Somerset County and includes Monie and Wicomico Hundreds.

The electronic archive, which can be accessed from anywhere via the Internet, will make demographic data, personal information and settlement maps easily available to anyone attempting to do research on the history and culture of early Delmarva.

The electronic archive will provide historical information that may be used by anyone interested in Delmarva's past including historians, student researchers, teachers, archaeologists and genealogists. Researchers will be able to access data from wills, inventories, tax lists, accounts, land records, parish records, judicial records and land patent maps.

Site designers used GIS software that enables users to view the settlement maps. Researchers may now zoom in on maps to view land tract boundary lines. This method allows users to see where early settlers lived, who had the largest tracts and even who their neighbors were. Information on the Mt. Vernon region of Somerset County will be available on line in the coming months. Other maps have been scanned and the corresponding data has been compiled. The data will be loaded at a later date.

Pending continued support, Nabb Center staff plan to increase the coverage of the project to include other settlers biographical information and their land tracts from across Delmarva. The Center's staff hopes for funding in the future to achieve these goals.

Initially, the project was funded with a $266,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and $50,000 from the Maryland Historical Trust. During the early phases of development in 2001, the Center's staff, volunteers and other departments at Salisbury University worked to compile and format the American Origins database, along with its companion site, "Gateway to the Eastern Shore." The companion site features electronic images from "The 1877 Atlases and Other Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland" and corresponding photographs.

The Center collaborated with Salisbury University's Geography and Geosciences Department to prepare the maps using GIS software. Salisbury University's Information Technology Department provided in-kind support with their time and efforts to help create the Web interface for the data and the maps.

Continue to check the Nabb Center's Web page at nabbhistory.salisbury.edu for updates on the project's progress.

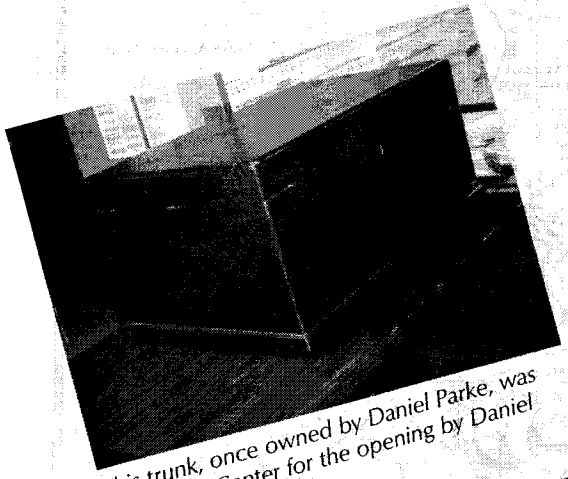
17th Century Eastern Shore Architecture

by Michael Schaefer

Artifacts from a 17th-century Virginia plantation will be part of a recently opened exhibit at the Nabb Research Center. The exhibit, "Architecture at Arlington: Archaeology and the Architecture of Arlington Mansion at Old Plantation Creek," opened August 15 and runs through December.

The exhibit includes artifacts, photographs, documents and a model of the elaborate mansion built by John Custis II in the 1670s. One of only five brick mansions built in 17th-century Virginia, the house once served as a temporary Colonial capital during Bacon's Rebellion in 1676. Today, little remains of the former mansion except for a foundation and numerous artifacts.

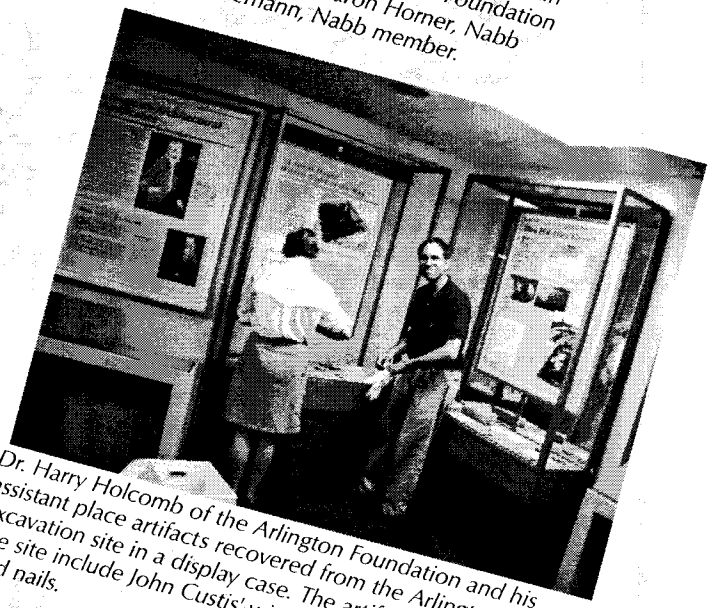
In 1987 Virginia state archaeologists discovered the mansion's site including the foundation and a wine bottle with the seal of John Custis II. Later excavations were completed in 1987, 1988 and 1994 to unearth the historical artifacts now on display at the Nabb Research Center. The Arlington Foundation, which has custody of the property, sponsors the event.



This trunk, once owned by Daniel Parke, was lent to the Center for the opening by Daniel Whealton of Salisbury.

Several partons discuss the Arlington event opening during a Power Point presentation about the 17th century Virginia plantation. The attendees included, from left to right, Austin "Pete" Okie, Nabb member, Henry Hannah, SU Foundation president; Ed Otter, Nabb member; Aaron Horner, Nabb research assistant; and Ed Niemann, Nabb member.

Patrons and Nabb Center supporters attended the opening event of the Arlington Plantation exhibit this August. Attendees included, from left to right, Alice Bahr, dean of libraries; Sandy Quillin, Nabb board member; Pat Taylor, Nabb board member; and Polly Batchelder, Nabb board member.



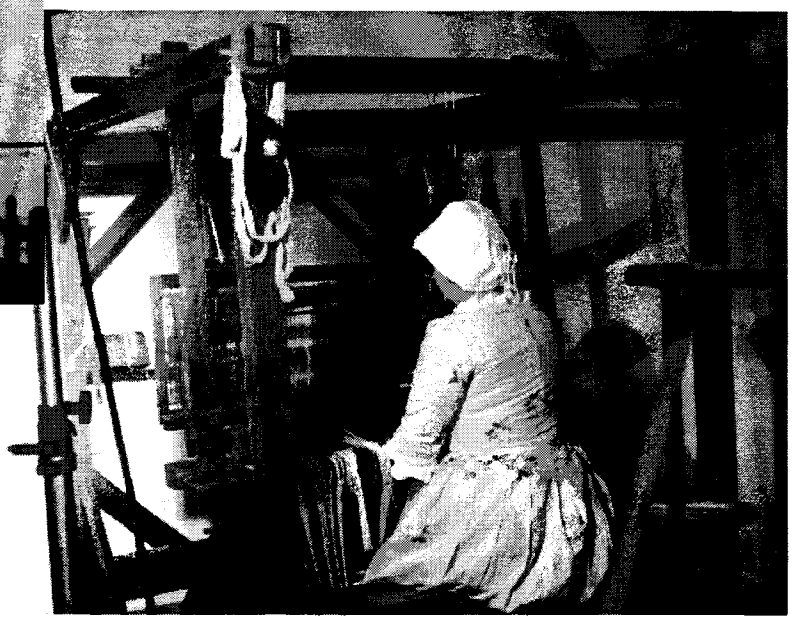
Dr. Harry Holcomb of the Arlington Foundation and his assistant place artifacts recovered from the Arlington excavation site in a display case. The artifacts uncovered at the site include John Custis' wine bottle, masonary fragments and nails.

Salisbury Student Creates Educational Video For Nabb Research Center

by Michael Schaefer

Pam Collins, left, an SU graduate student, and Mike Camillo, a Salisbury undergraduate student prepare, their video equipment for filming scenes at Pemberton. Collins wrote and produced the film and Camillo edited the film. Camillo also assisted Tom Trainor (not pictured) with videography.

Pat Taylor, member of the Pemberton Hall Foundation and a board member for the Nabb Center, demonstrates the proper use of a Colonial loom at Pemberton Manor.



After five months of research, several trips to Annapolis and dozens of hours in front of a camera, Salisbury University Graduate Assistant Pamela Collins recently presented to the Nabb Research Center her video on Pemberton Hall.

"I'm bringing the past right into today. Everything at Pemberton does that," said Collins, who produced the video.

The 14-minute video is based on the inventory of Isaac Handy, who built the house in 1741. The presentation depicts items listed in his inventory as well as re-enactors depicting a typical day in the life of Handy.

Many in the Salisbury University community, including students and Colonial re-enactors, helped Collins bring the past to life. Mike Camillo and Tom Trainor, two recent SU graduates, were involved with the film's production. Camillo edited the film and also assisted Trainor with videography.

Pat Taylor and Bill Wilson, Colonial re-enactors, depicted a typical day at Pemberton. Taylor is a member of the Pemberton Hall Foundation and a board member for the Center. Wilson is the history coordinator and chair for the Pemberton Hall Foundation.

The video does more than depict Colonial life on the Pemberton plantation. Rebecca Miller, Nabb Center Director, wanted an orientation tool to be made available to history professors teaching students about Colonial inventories. The tape Collins made will replace the older video currently held at the Center.

Preparing the new video proved to be daunting task at the outset. Collins said she wrote three scripts before finally settling on the final version. Choosing words may have been hard, but choosing the location was not.

The Pemberton site had everything a filmmaker needed for a Colonial video. Collins said with the help of re-enactors, as well as authentic Colonial furniture and tools, she was able to bring history alive. The Wicomico Historical Society provided many of the artifacts used in the video.

Collins said she believes the video will be an asset to students studying history. Professors can use the video to demonstrate to students how much information a Colonial inventory can really tell about a person, she said.

"If it fills the purpose of what we set out to do, then we have been successful," Collins said.

Collins was a graduate assistant at the Nabb Center and recently earned her Master of Arts in history from Salisbury University. She has previous film production experience.

Richard Davis: A Colonial Snapshot

by David Reid

Richard Davis lived in Somerset County during the last part of the 17th century. He grew tobacco and corn as well as kept a substantial number of livestock. While in Somerset, Davis raised a family, held public office and accumulated a significant amount of wealth and debt. He was a motivated businessman who worked hard to gather wealth and provide for his children.

Davis began his life in Somerset County in March 1663/64 after receiving a patent for 300 acres of land called Davis' Lott. The property was located near Westover, just south of Back Creek. In 1665, Davis was awarded another patent for transporting five settlers, including himself, to Maryland. Perhaps there was a delay in the court's recognition of the patent in 1665. After acquiring land, Davis registered a cattle mark on April 19, 1666.

Later, Davis acquired property known as Berrer's Lott. According to court records, the unnamed piece of land was willed to his two sons. It is likely that Davis acquired this land through his marriage to Elizabeth Berre, because of the resemblance of the name to the property. Although no will or deed could be found, she was likely the daughter or the widow of Philip Berrer, the original patent holder.

In 1674, Davis paid 1,000 pounds of tobacco to William and Anne Davis for 50 acres of land. Later that year, Davis sold Davis' Lott to William Furnis for 2,000 pounds. In 1679 Davis received 100 acres of land from John White. He would name this land Davis' Chance. Davis' final land acquisition was 200 acres of marshland adjacent to the Manokin River. While the intended purpose for the land is unclear, his inventory listed three guns and a load of powder and shot. Considering the marshland's environment, Davis may have hunted waterfowl or other wildlife on the property. Davis often used tobacco as a means of exchange. By the time of his death he had amassed a large estate.

Davis may have moved into Somerset County from Virginia. Land records indicate there were five men named Richard Davis in Virginia, but no clear connection could be made among the settlers.

Davis' family life began on March 14, 1675/76, when he married Elizabeth Berre. Martha, the couple's first child, was born soon after on April 3, 1676. Martha was conceived well before Richard and Elizabeth's marriage. Their next child, Thomas, was born on January 16, 1678. Richard, the couple's third child, died some time after his birth on June 1, 1679. Elizabeth gave birth to another boy on June 6, 1680. Rather than bury the name Richard with their third child, the couple chose to use the name again on their fourth boy. Later, on February 20, 1682, the couple had another boy who they named William. Their youngest son, John, was born on July 27, 1685. After five consecutive boys, they had a girl named Elizabeth on January 1, 1687. Rosannah was the couple's last child. She was born on March 16, 1690. All of the children were mentioned in the will except Thomas, Rosannah and the first Richard. Perhaps Thomas and Rosannah met a similar fate as their brother and died before their father.

As an active farmer, Davis grew corn and tobacco and left behind a large cache of each when he died. He also raised livestock. At the time of his death he had 23 head of cattle, 13 sheep, two horses, three beehives and a parcel of hogs.

According to court records, Davis was an upstanding, law-abiding citizen. Davis played a significant role in his community, and by 1672 he was serving on numerous juries. Later in 1675 he was named constable for Manokin Hundred.

As an important and respected man in the community, Davis also appeared as a witness in court, appraised property and witnessed important business deals. In 1666 he testified in a defamation case and in 1674 he was asked to appraise a lot of pine planks.

Davis' only clash with the law was on January 15, 1695 when he was brought to court on charges of cohabitation with Sarah Dorman. The case was excused when Davis convinced his accusers that he and Dorman were married and they were Quakers. This case reveals a few things about Davis. First, the fact that he was with another woman indicates that his wife had probably died. Second, his statements about being married as a Quaker reveal his religious faith.

Davis left little to his second wife after his death. However, the small inheritance he left her seems fitting for a woman he had only been with for five years. If Davis had still been married to Elizabeth when he died, he may have left her a greater inheritance considering their long childrearing relationship and the fact that much of his wealth came as a result of the association with her family.

Davis had several servants, but none were identified as Negroes. According to court records Andrew Pool, one of Davis' servants, was an orphan who apprenticed with Davis until the age of 21. Davis was required to teach Pool to read and write and also was supposed to give him one heifer at the age of 18. For Davis to teach Pool how to read and write, Davis also had to be able to read and write. The presence of books and reading glasses on Davis' inventory reinforce the assumption he was literate.

Despite being a productive farmer and active businessman, Davis had serious debt. Although the specific debts cannot be read, he owed lenders 121 pounds, 1 shilling and 2 pence—the same as the estimated value of his goods on his inventory. Aside from his land holdings, when Davis died he broke even after his debts were paid.

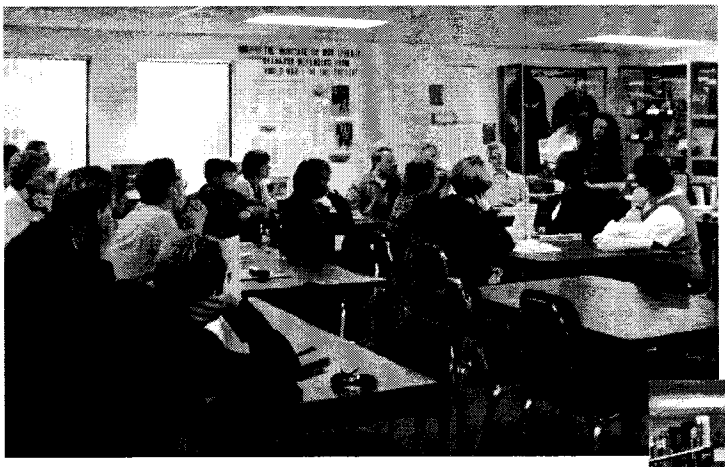
Sometime between November and February 1696 Davis died. He left behind a large family and a legacy that will remain for years to come. Davis was an important member of early Somerset County.

Reid is a Salisbury University senior who was awarded the Miles-Stevenson Students Award for his paper on Richard Davis. He is a history, secondary education major.

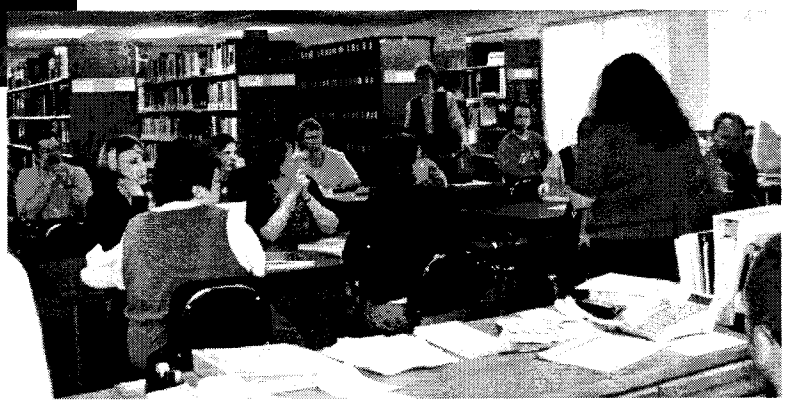
Editor's note: Due to space restrictions the paper has been condensed. Citations are available from the Nabb Research Center upon request.

Folklife Field School

by Dr. Polly Stewart



This June, Nabb Center Archivist Rebecca Brooks gave a presentation on how to use the Center's archives at the 2003 Folklife Field School at Salisbury University and Crisfield, MD.



The Edward H. Nabb Center played a key role in the success of the 2003 Folklife Field School, an offering of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress. It was hosted by Salisbury University and the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art at Salisbury University over a three-week period in June and July. As a result of its contributions to the Field School, the Nabb Center will serve as an official repository of the 2003 Folklife Field School's research findings–a collection of several dozen audiotapes and tape logs, hundreds of photographs and field notes produced intensively by the school's 15 participants during the latter part of the school. All materials were collected from local residents of Crisfield, MD, the school's field site.

The Folklife Field School is the brainchild of the American Folklife Center (AFC). Created by an act of Congress in 1976 and housed in the Library of Congress, the AFC has as part of its mission a commitment to educate citizens in the techniques of collection and preservation of family stories, community oral history, and other traditional expressions of local culture, known collectively as folklife. The Folklife Field School provides one way of fulfilling this part of the AFC's mission.

Field School is the only educational offering of its kind in the country and each year teaches to select groups of participants the basic skills of ethnographic or folklife field research–interviewing, sound recording, photography, the preservation of materials thus gathered and the transformation of raw field materials into educational products such as books, articles, television or radio programs, exhibits, and the like. The Edward H. Nabb Center's role in the Field School's curriculum was to provide archival resources on the history and culture of Crisfield. Under the supervision of Nabb Center Archivist Rebecca Brooks, the participants studied documents and photographs from Crisfield in preparation for their own foray into the field site.

Participants also, out of necessity, use planning, time management, teamwork and a host of other background skills. They gain their skills in part through expert instruction, but more significantly by doing–by forming into teams, getting out into communities with photographic and audio recording equipment in hand, and documenting live people and their stories in their everyday settings.

The Field School travels from venue to venue throughout the country, sometimes staying two years in the same venue. Since its inception in the middle 1990s it has held schools in southern Colorado, Indiana, Ohio and (this year) in the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Next year it will be held in Utah. Each year the school, working in cooperation with the host institution, selects a group of applicants from many walks of life as Field School participants for that year. Of this year's 15 participants, all but three came from Maryland and the Middle Atlantic. Of those who came from farther afield, two hailed from Utah and one from Texas. The participants had a variety of occupations–federal agency worker, community activist, artist, student–but all had applied to the school with an articulated long-range view of ways in which their experience in the school could serve them in their future work.

The Nabb Center will receive one of three copies of the Folklife Field School's field materials. The other two will be housed at the Crisfield Heritage Foundation and at the Ward Museum of Salisbury University.

Stewart is an English professor at Salisbury University, she teaches courses on folklife, medieval literature, Norse literature and mythology. She is also on the Nabb Center board of directors.

Clifton Event Fundraiser

From left to right, Aaron Horner, Carolyn Jones and Dr. Ray Thompson.

From left to right, Buzz Gering, Jack Graham, Lauren Taylor and Bill Niskanen enjoy their drinks with other Clifton attendees on the porch of the 19th century home.

From left to right, Edward Niemann Jr., Salisbury University President Janet Dudley Eshbach, Dr. Maarten Pereboom, Ham Fox, Cathy Niskanen and Bea Warbasse enjoy dinner during the Clifton event.

On May 24, Bill and Kathy Niskanen hosted an inaugural benefit for the Nabb Research Center at their home, Clifton, in Somerset County. Clifton was built in 1805, is located in Revells Neck and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. More than 80 participated in the silent auction that helped raise more than $8,000 for the Center. The event was made possible by donations from Nabb board members, staff, patrons and area businesses. Special thanks to the following donors of items for the silent auction:

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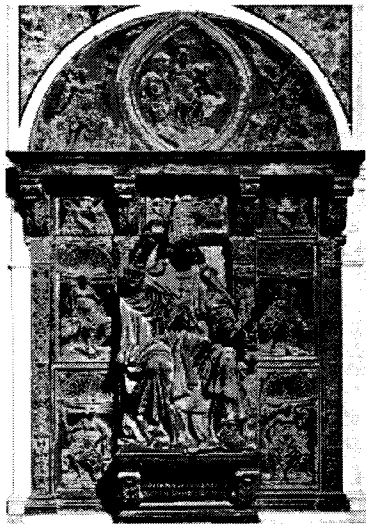
Salisbury, MD 21801
410-860-0447

Christopher Columbus and Pope Innocent VIII

by Dr. Timothy S. Miller

On August 3,1492, Christopher Columbus left the small Spanish port of Palos on a journey that would change world history. By making this voyage, Columbus put Europe at the center of the world, a process of globalization, which would eventually make Western civilization the dominant culture. Queen Isabella of Castile and King Ferdinand of Aragon were the immediate beneficiaries of Columbus' great discovery—or perhaps one should say his contact with the New World. But did Columbus succeed because of Isabella, who was ready to believe his wild speculations, protected him from critics and ultimately financed his voyage? If so, why did she not protect him effectively after he returned from the Caribbean in 1493? According to an Italian journalist, Ruggero Marino, Isabella was not the person who made sure Columbus' boats set sail in August1492. Rather, it was the reigning bishop of Rome, Pope Innocent VIII (1484-92), who had been backing Columbus, probably from the beginning of his pontificate in 1484.



Pope Innocent's tomb reads "The glory of finding the New World in his pontificate."

Marino bases his new interpretation of Columbus' voyages primarily on four points. First, Innocent VIII (his family name was Giovanni Battista Cibo) was from Genoa, Columbus' birthplace. Genoese merchants had close relations with the governments of both Spain and Portugal, and Columbus had frequently benefited from Genoese support in seeking to carry out his grand scheme of sailing west to the Orient. It is unlikely Columbus would have neglected to contact the Vatican once he learned that a fellow countryman had become pope. Moreover, once Innocent VIII died, Columbus' support evaporated. As soon as the great discoverer arrived back in Spain in spring 1493, his troubles began. Marino emphasizes that Innocent VIII had died just days before Columbus departed from Palos on August 3. By the time Columbus had returned, Pope Alexander VI held the chair of Saint Peter. Columbus had lost his key to influence royal decisions.

Second, Marino draws attention to the inscription on Innocent's tomb in Saint Peter's: "The glory of finding the New World in his pontificate." Since Columbus departed Palos a few days after Innocent had died and reached the Caribbean in October, this inscription is either in error or reflects Innocent's desire to associate his pontificate with the great voyage.

Third, because Isabella and Ferdinand had spent their resources on driving the Moslems out from Granada in Southern Spain, the royal couple had no money to finance Columbus' voyage in 1492. As a result, a legend developed that Isabella was forced to sell some of the crown jewels to finance the voyage. In fact, the money came from Luis de Santangel and Francesco Pinelli. Although historians have known this, they failed to notice that both these men served the church as treasurers of ecclesiastical organizations and that both were relatives of Innocent VIII.

Finally, Marino emphasized that, in Columbus' first letter to Ferdinand and Isabella, written on the return voyage before Columbus knew of Innocent's death, the admiral of the Ocean Sea asked the sovereigns to request a cardinal's hat for his first son. Marino sees this request as evidence of a close relationship between Columbus and Innocent, especially since Columbus never mentioned the cardinalate again, once he learned of Innocent's death.

In addition to Marino's evidence, my students and I discovered some interesting facts during the winter 2003 intersession at Salisbury University. In depositions given before royal agents, several crew members of the first voyage mentioned that Marin Alonzo Pinzon, the man who provided crew, boats and equipment for Columbus at Palos, had visited the pope's library in Rome and seen a mysterious map of the Western Ocean. Leaving aside the origins of this map, my students and I wondered how could a common merchant like Pinzon have access to the Vatican library on a trip to buy fish in Rome. Marino may have found the answer.

Even if Marino is exaggerating when he claims that Columbus was one of Innocent's many illegitimate children, historians need to examine some of Marino's evidence. Unfortunately, Marino's book, *Cristoforo Columbo e il Papa Tradito*, is only available in Italian.

Miller is a history professor at Salisbury University. He teaches classes about Byzantine history, Medieval and Renaissance Italy as well as early Christianity.

A Hard Day at the Office

by Dave Nutter

Not too long ago I spent some time reading *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland* written by Helen Rountree and Thomas E. Davidson. The scholarship is intense and excellent, from the sections on ecology to the fates of the tribes, especially the account of the dismemberment of the Gingaskin reservation at Eastville. However, of all the book's parts, the phrase "fur-trading families like the Nutters" set my thinking in a new direction, as I realized I was not giving enough emphasis to the fur-trader way of life.

After reading Rountree and Davidson, I read C.A. Westlager's book, *The Nanticoke Indians – Past and Present.* After reading several chapters in Westlager, I realized the role of Christopher Nutter as the Indian interpreter.

It occurred to me that it must take discipline as well as some common humanity to "stay in the middle" in the interpreter's role, not to be swept away by the political passions coming from either direction and to use some judgment to keep the peace. Also, to have held on to a sense of humor when discussions got crazy, as they often do when two different cultures communicate.

As an interpreter, Nutter often found himself in the middle of disputes between Colonial authorities and the Nanticoke Indians. One day in February 1688, a group of Nanticokes crossed to the Western Shore and got into an argument with a farmer, Richard Enock. Enock had killed a Nanticoke the year before. The disagreement escalated and the Nanticokes killed Enock and wounded his wife.

The provincial government asked the Nanticoke Emperor Ahoperoon, at his village Chicone, across the river from Nutter's Neck, to deliver the perpetrators to the English court for trial in St. Mary's City. Ahoperoon was caught between a desire to work with his powerful English counterparts and the demands from the more radical younger men in the tribe. Nutter, now somewhere between 48 and 57 years, was identified as the interpreter.

Source: *Cavalier's Adventure* by Sharon Himes

But as far as the Enock affair was concerned, two pictures of the world are now colliding. Westlager said that on April 24, 1688, "the (Maryland Provincial) Council received an unusual request brought by a messenger from the Eastern Shore." The request, written by Somerset County Sheriff Jenckins, read "the Indians of Nanticoke make their request That the Grave of one Enock an English man may be opened to satisfy the Indians that the said Enock was really dead and buried." Note that the request did not originate with Ahoperoon, which strongly suggests that the influential radical faction in the tribe had little faith in the word of the English authorities.

After some discussion, the Council decided to grant the request, and Enock's corpse was displayed before Nanticoke Indian witnesses. The Council said this was the first request of this nature that had ever been received. Using the interpreter, the English scolded the Indians and said they should give more credence to what English officials told them because they did not intend to open any graves in the future.

And suddenly, an entire scene became vivid to me. I imagined the bright sun shining on the Europeans and Indians standing in a half circle, the scraping sounds of the shovels in the earth, the casket being pried open and the foul smell and ghastly spectacle of poor Enock inside. I am sure some of the men crowded closer to be sure it was him while others wished they were back in the boats. I imagined at least a moment of silence out of some universal respect for death, and maybe just a tiny sense of absurdity.

And then the babble of the languages began again, except now it was clear to me that Christopher Nutter was standing there, in the middle once again, in more ways than one.

My guess is that Tangier Sound and Nutter's Neck looked pretty good on his return trip. It must have been a hard day at the office.

Nutter is on the Nabb Center Board of Directors. He also is the Principal for Nutter Associates, a community planning consultant in Salisbury.

First Contact: The Confrontation of Cultures In Early America

by Dr. Melanie Perreault

The world used to be smaller. An entire lifetime could be spent within the confines of a family farm, a local village or tribal hunting grounds. In the 15th and 16th centuries, however, the world suddenly revealed itself to be much larger and more complex than it had seemed only a few generations earlier. Europeans moving westward across the Atlantic Ocean suddenly confronted groups of Native Americans, who themselves were in the midst of a series of moves throughout the North American continent. As each side warily eyed the other, searching for some explanation as to who (or what) these strangers were. The first contact period offered a brief moment of opportunity before the European-Indian relationship descended into systematic violence.

Of course, we should not romanticize the contact period as a lost opportunity for intercultural understanding and peace. Without a common language, Europeans and Native Americans were forced to analyze visual clues subject to significant misinterpretation. Each side met the other with cultural arrogance, convinced that their society was far superior to that of the strangers in their midst. In the age before "scientific" racism became a convenient way to explain inhumanity, the participants in first contact found other means of rationalizing mistreatment of foreign peoples. The Algonquin Indians were surprised to discover that the English visitors (who, oddly enough, did not bring women with them) were extremely hairy, did not bathe frequently and could not even feed themselves. And far from expressing dismay when the Indians he met in North Carolina began dying from European diseases, Thomas Harriot considered it a "marvelous accident" that "within a few days after our departure from every such town, the people began to die very fast." Surely, Harriot and other English observers argued, this was a sign from God that Europeans should colonize America.

In the Chesapeake region, some of the most fascinating accounts of the first contact period describe the negotiations between the powerful Powhatan Indians and the struggling settlers of Jamestown. For the first few years the relationship essentially was a stalemate, with the English having the advantage of superior weaponry and the Powhatans holding considerable power through their virtual monopoly on food. When the Indians and English were on the verge of war in 1608, the Powhatan leader asked John Smith "what can you get by war, when we can hide our provision and fly to the woods, whereby you must famish by wronging us your friends?" Powhatan's assessment was a realistic appraisal of each side's strengths and weaknesses, and as it turned out, an accurate prediction of the future. Soon after Powhatan's speech, the settlers experienced the infamous "starving time," when the besieged Colonists were forced to eat rats, snakes and even human corpses in an effort to survive the winter.

Source: *Indians and English* by Karen Ordahl Kupperman

The Nabb Research Center holds many of the most important primary accounts of first contact, not only for the Delmarva region, but for the entire Atlantic World. Richard Hakluyt's *Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation*, assembled in the late 16th century, is a massive compendium of firsthand accounts of English feats on the high seas. Samuel Purchas picked up where Hakluyt left off, assembling a 20-volume collection he titled *Hakluytus Posthumus, or Purchase His Pilgrimes*. Patrons interested in the contact period in the Chesapeake can read Verrazanno's 1524 letter purportedly describing the Eastern Shore, or peruse John Smith's accounts in Philip Barbour's definitive three-volume *Complete Works of Captain John Smith*. These rich sources, and many others at the Nabb Research Center, offer a fascinating glimpse of the confrontation of cultures during the early contact period.

Perreault is a history professor at Salisbury University. She teaches classes about Colonial America and U.S. history.

Editor's note: Citations are available at the Nabb Center.

Blood on the Chesapeake: The Maryland-Virginia Confrontation of 1635

by Timothy F. Robinson

Anger, greed and jealousy drove Marylanders and Virginians to open conflict over which colony had the right to settle the disputed land patented to Lord Baltimore. Control over Kent Island was one of the many flashpoints shared by the two colonies in the 17th century.

Calvert first encountered problems when he discovered Virginians already occupying land that was supposed to be his. King Charles I had previously authorized the leaders of Virginia to expand into any area not deeded to anyone else. Because of this, the Virginians had encroached on lands awarded to Maryland. Lord Baltimore was instructed to settle in "the parts of America not yet cultivated and planted." These words used to establish the new colony contributed to the controversy in which Lord Baltimore was about to find himself.

Kent Island, a fruitful and rich trading post in the upper Chesapeake Bay, became the center of controversy. The island, already claimed by many Virginians including William Claiborne, was in the middle of Lord Baltimore's new patent. The Maryland Charter upset Claiborne enough that he immediately petitioned the King that Kent Island rightfully belonged to Virginia and that Baltimore and company should settle elsewhere. The two colonies were at an impasse. Claiborne and the Virginia leadership were unwilling to surrender Kent Island because of all the hard work that went into establishing the outpost. On the other hand, Calvert would not allow Virginians to exist independently within Maryland's boundaries. This would soon prove to be the greatest obstacle to good relations between Maryland and Virginia.

Lord Baltimore did not accompany the colonists on the voyage to Maryland; instead he sent his brother Leonard Calvert and left detailed instructions to be followed by the colonists. The colonists were instructed "to preserve peace and unity amongst all the passengers on the ship" and "do not offend the Protestants already in Virginia or back in England." Baltimore told the colonists not to land in Jamestown and to avoid the Virginian fort at Point Comfort. The Marylanders arrived with instructions to make conciliatory gestures toward the Virginians. Once there, the Marylanders were to send an emissary to Virginia, meet with Claiborne and inform him that Kent Island belonged to Maryland.

A line drawing of William Claiborne.

The Marylanders believed the Virginians were "much displeased" at the establishment of a new colony and feared they "should be plotting something against us." Worried about the Virginian's reaction to the Marylanders, King Charles I sent a letter instructing Virginia's leaders to offer help and assistance with the new colony. Charles I wrote to offer "friendly help and support" and to "give courtesy and respect to Lord Baltimore." He also instructed Virginia Gov. Harvey to sell surplus cattle and other commodities to the new colony. Probably out of anger about the new settlers, the help the King requested was the last thing the Virginians planned to provide the Marylanders. According to Harvey, "many are so adverse as that they crye and make it their familiar talke that they would rather knock their cattle on the heads than sell them to Maryland."

Cecil Calvert. Courtesy of the Maryland Archives.

In the spring of 1635 hostilities flared over the trading rights on Kent Island. Virginia instigated the first confrontation when Capt. Thomas Smith of Kent Island, one of Claiborne's chief deputies, seized a boat commanded by Sgt. Robert Vaughn from St. Mary's City. The boat had been sailing in the area of Kent Island laden with trade goods when the crew was arrested.

The animosity over trading rights on the Chesapeake Bay continued to escalate. On March 26, 1635, Capt. Smith of Kent Island and his crew set sail on the *Long Tayle* to enforce the trade rights. Smith carried a copy of the commission granted to Claiborne by the King that enabled the Virginians to trade within Maryland's domain. About one week later Capt. Henry Fleet of Maryland spotted the Virginians on the Pocomoke River and demanded to know what right they had to be in Lord Baltimore's domain. Despite Smith's royal proclamation, the Marylanders remained skeptical. They seized Smith's men and the ship's supplies.

Capt. Smith was taken to St. Mary's to see Gov. Leonard Calvert. Calvert demanded that Capt. Smith testify against Claiborne for ordering him to trade in Maryland waters. He refused and was threatened with life imprisonment, but was later released.

The animosity between the two rival colonies continued to fester and led to bloodshed on April 23, 1635, when Capt.

Thomas Cornwalles of Maryland was attacked by Capt. Smith. Cornwalles was traveling with two crews aboard the pinnaces *St. Helen* and *St. Margaret* on the Pocomoke River when he was approached by Capt. Smith aboard the pinnace *Cockatrice*. Armed Virginians attacked the two Maryland vessels. According to the Marylanders, the Virginians struck first "as pyrates and robbers." Cornwalles' men only fought in self-defense.

However, according to Claiborne, the Virginians did not strike first and were only defending themselves. He later wrote to Charles I and said as his crew approached the Marylanders "they shot among the petitioner's men and slew three of them and hurt more."

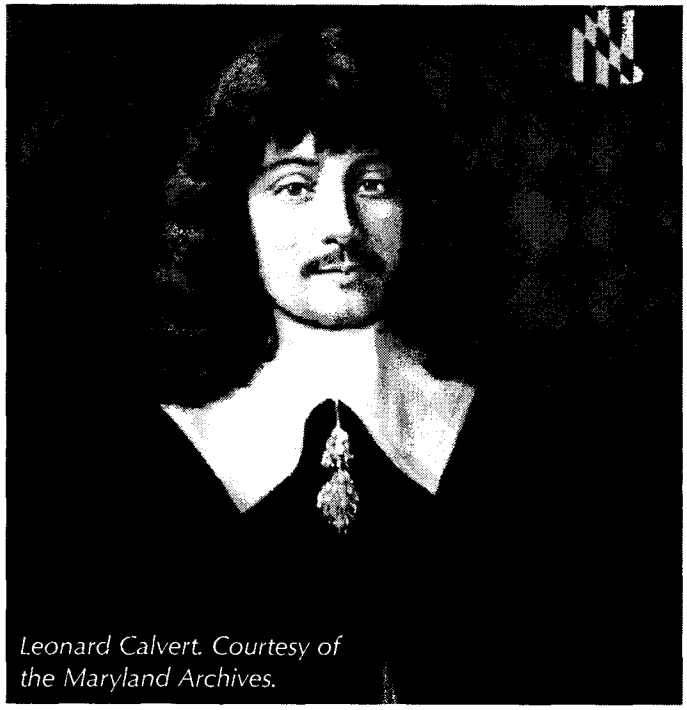
If there was debate over who initiated the hostilities, there was none over the outcome. Three Virginians, Lt. William Ratcliffe, John Bellson and William Dawson, died in the battle while one Marylander, William Ashmore, died. According to records, Ashmore was "shoot and wound in his breast on his left side nere his left papp, of which wound the said William Ashmore instantly died."

Gov. Calvert had grown tired of the animosities over Kent Island. Determined to have possession of the strategic outpost, Calvert informed the residents of Kent Island they would be welcomed in his colony if they acquiesced to his control. In January 1638, Calvert issued a warrant for the arrest of Capt. Smith which charged him with "crimes of sedition, pyracie, and murther." The Maryland governor set sail with a force of 30 men to arrest Smith. The force landed before sunrise and made its way onto the island and located Smith. Calvert's expedition placed "the chief delinquents" against Lord Baltimore under arrest. After the arrest, Calvert issued a general pardon to the rest of the inhabitants of Kent Island.

Smith was taken to St. Mary's where he was released to the custody of Sheriff James Baldridge. On March 14, 1638, Smith was brought before the General Assembly of Maryland to be tried before 24 freemen on the charges of piracy, robbery and murder. Smith was found guilty of the murder of William Ashmore and the seizure of Sgt. Vaughn's vessel. Smith was sentenced to be "hanged by the neck till you be dead." However, Smith escaped the hangman's noose when Calvert awarded him clemency. Calvert believed that Smith "shall continue at my mercie under whose eye he is."

George Calvert. Courtesy of the Maryland Archives.

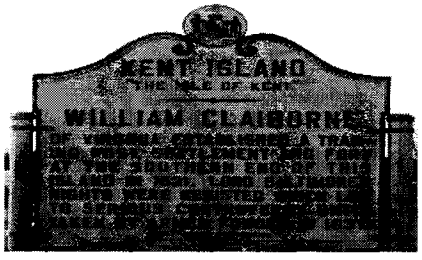
Claiborne, the architect of the insurgency against Maryland, escaped capture and in 1638 fled to Virginia. Extradition from Virginia proved difficult, so on March 27, 1638, Calvert ordered Sheriff Baldridge to seize all Claiborne's property on Kent Island. Later that month Calvert wrote to Charles I about Claiborne. Calvert said, "for your Petitioner is confident that upon a true examination of the fact where it was committed: it will appear that the said Clayborne and his servants are guilty of Piracy and Murder. " Calvert knew the dispute of Kent Island would have to be settled or the incessant bickering and fighting would continue.



Leonard Calvert. Courtesy of the Maryland Archives.

King Charles I received the complaints from both parties over Kent Island and decided to have the Archbishop of Canterbury arbitrate the dispute. The Archbishop heard the petitions of Virginia and Maryland and ruled in the favor of Lord Baltimore on April 4, 1638. He said, "The right and tytle to the lie of Kent and other places in question to be absolutely belonging to the Lord Baltimore and that noe Plantu or Trade with the Indians Ought to be within the precincts of his patent without lycence from hamongim." Upon learning of the Archbishop's ruling, the Governor of Virginia conceded that Maryland owned Kent Island on October 4,1638. Thus ended the first saga involving the spillage of blood among English speakers in the New World.

Robinson is a history graduate student at Salisbury University. He has worked on past projects for the Center including the American Origins Web site. He also has provided research assistance in the reading room. Robinson is a deputy for the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office and lives in Eden, MD.



This state highway marker reminds travelers through Kent Island that this region of Maryland was once highly contested.

Source: *World War One Remembered* by Francis A. Ianni

National Guardsmen from Wicomico County In the Meuse-Argonne Offensive

by Dr. Stephen Gehnrich

When the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, the Army had 85,000 men. The nation increased its armed forces by activating some 350,000 National Guardsmen and instituting the draft. It would take more than a year for significant numbers of American soldiers to arrive in France, and although these men would make important contributions to the Allied victory, they would pay dearly for their lack of training and experience.

In building the new American Army, Maryland's National Guard units were reorganized under the 115th Regiment of the 29th Blue and Gray Division. Clarence Davis, Edward Porter and Frederick Pusey of Salisbury along with George Malone of Allen were among the many National Guardsmen from Wicomico County who became part of the new regiment.

These "citizen soldiers" first went to Camp McClellan in Alabama for training and then sailed to France in June 1918. After several weeks of training in quiet sectors of the front, they were ready for battle.

On September 26, 1918, the U.S. Army launched a major attack against German forces in eastern France between the Argonne Forest and the Meuse River. The Meuse-Argonne offensive was a northward attack along a 20-mile front. The 29th Division was not a part of the initial assault but was held in reserve.

The battlefield's landscape featured small hills and valleys with wooded areas that made ideal hiding spots for German defenders. The Germans also had dug defensive positions deep into the ground and reinforced them with concrete and barbed wire. Despite the strong defense, the Americans advanced about eight miles during the first week, but by October 6 the advance had come to a halt when the Americans reached the strongest German defensive position—the Hindenburg Line. Further advances were made impossible because heavy German artillery and machine gun fire fell on the Allies from hills on the eastern side of the Meuse River. Before the Hindenburg Line could be broken, the Germans to the east of the Meuse River would have to be defeated.

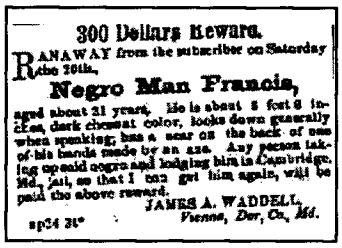
The 29th Division was quickly moved to the east of the river, and on October 8, U.S. troops began the assault against the Germans in the wooded hills. With the 115th Regiment in the lead, the advancing soldiers followed a rolling barrage where they advanced behind a curtain of their own artillery. The troops progressed at a rate of 100 yards every six minutes. The German defenders fought desperately to hold their positions, but by October 10, soldiers of the Blue and Gray were in control of the hills and the surrounding woods.

Davis, Porter, Pusey and Malone were killed in the three-day fight for those hills. The capture of the hills enabled the American Army to resume its advance in the Meuse-Argonne and helped to force the German Army to capitulate. One month after the battle the Armistice to end the war was signed.

Gehnrich is a biology professor at Salisbury University. His interests include the study of World War I and how the conflict relates to the Shore.

Finding Francis: On the Trail of a Slave On the Undergroung Railroad

by Elaine Palmer-McGill



300 Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY from the subscriber on Saturday the 26th,

Negro Man Francis,

aged about 21 years. He is about 5 feet 8 inches, dark chestnut color, looks down generally when speaking; has a scar on the back of one of his hands made by an axe. Any person taking up said negro and lodging him in Cambridge, Md., jail, so that I can get him again, will be paid the above reward.

JAMES A. WADDELL,
Vienna, Dor. Co., Md.

ap24 3t*

This advertisement from an 1856 edition of The American Eagle *offered a $300 reward for the capture of a runaway slave. The author is the descendent of the runaway slave.*

I always knew that I was descended from slaves. My maternal grandparents were quick to share and pass on stories they heard as children. Being curious and a lover of history, I saw the value of knowing your roots and wanted to learn more about what life had been like for my ancestors. I began to gather information about the Molock line of my family when I heard contradictory stories and references regarding them. Some family members swear there are two unrelated Molock families in Dorchester County while other family members swear the families are related.

I believe we are all connected and I wanted to learn more about these "other Molocks." I was unwilling to accept the possibility of there being two unrelated families with the same surname and many of the same given names who lived in the same county at the same time. There had to be a link.

I posted an inquiry on the Web asking for information about a man known to my uncle as "Cousin Caleb." Soon I learned of two brothers, Caleb and Francis Molock. Both men were slaves born around the mid-1800s on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and each belonged to a different master. They chose to flee, rather than live as slaves.

Caleb, who was about 11 years younger than Francis, escaped around age 18 and enlisted with the U.S. Colored Troops 19th Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. According to federal records, Caleb was discharged from the military near Brownsville, TX, and moved to Delaware and lived there for several years before returning to Dorchester County to raise a family. He lived the rest of his life in Cambridge where many of his descendents still reside today.

Francis' flight was a much more difficult path to track than his brother Caleb's. In 1856 Francis put his trust in the Underground Railroad and fled from his master's house in Vienna. Soon thereafter a reward announcement appeared in *The American Eagle*, a local newspaper of the time.

Now, I love a good mystery, and to me this was the best one ever. Here was a possible relative of mine who chose life as a fugitive from bondage at a time when behind every turn was the risk of capture and re-enslavement, or worse, loss of life.

Francis was determined to break free and start a new life in Canada. I followed his trail to Wilmington, DE, where I discovered Thomas Garrett, a prominent ironworker and abolitionist, offered Francis and four friends aid and shelter for six days. To elude their pursuers, each fugitive chose a new name and Francis became Thomas Jackson. Garrett quickly forwarded them along the route to William Still, a Philadelphia abolitionist.

Imagine the joy experienced when the terrified men finally arrived in Philadelphia and greedily sucked in their first breath of freedom. However, Francis would go on, believing he would not be safe until he was in Canada.

I located Francis on the Canadian Census in Ontario and logged onto the Web to get more information. A posting on Ancestry.com's message board connected me with the great grandson of Francis Molock. While researching his roots in Maryland he also discovered that Francis was a fugitive from bondage. His mother, Francis' granddaughter, had passed on an oral history to her sons, including Francis' flight and subsequent reunion with his brother nearly 10 years after arriving in Canada.

My "cousins" in Canada had never met or talked with their American "cousins" and were as thrilled as I was to finally have contact. Through conversation and research I learned that Francis married a woman who also was an escaped slave and together they raised 10 children. The house he built when he first arrived in Ontario remains today.

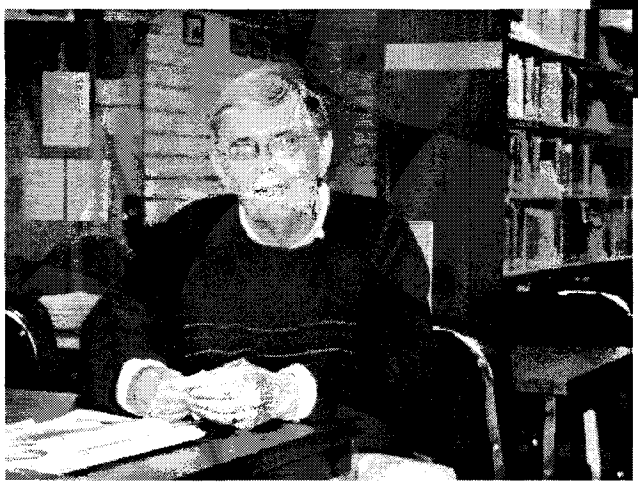
Finding Francis was a fascinating journey, one that raised my awareness of the perils facing runaway slaves and the courage and will required to overcome fear. Being a fledgling author I have taken on the challenge of documenting his journey and am currently working on my second fiction novel *North on the Underground Railroad*, due to be released late 2004.

Palmer-McGill is a Dorchester County author who has written about the lives of slaves. Her first novel,* Mingled Blood, *follows the life of a Dorchester County slave family. The book is scheduled to be released in October 2003. Her second novel,* North on the Underground Railroad, *will be released in late 2004.

Source: http://www.easternshore.com/esguide/tubman.html

People People People People

Frank Pierce visited the Nabb Center for the first time in July 2003. He authored *A Boy's Eye View of World War II: And Other Reminiscences of Maryland's Eastern Shore*. The book is available at the Nabb Center.



Dr. Barbara Basden and husband Dr. David Basden (not pictured) of Clovis, CA, are professors at California State University at Fresno, CA. They visited the Center in May to research the Pettyjohn family.

William Whittington of Seattle, who recently visited the Nabb Center, is a descendant of the Whittington family of Northampton County. The Whittingtons were early settlers to the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Dawn Manyfeathers conducted two Native American workshops featuring classes on Native American baskets and medicines. She will host a basketweaving workshop this November. Check the upcoming events page for details.

Becky Miller, Nabb Center Director, right; Christi Camper, Cambridge, MD, left; Elaine Palmer-McGill, Riverdale, GA, center; and Alona Palmer, McGill's mother, Brunswick, NJ, seated, visited the Nabb Center in June to research their Dorchester County family history. Palmer-McGill has prepared an article on runaway slaves for this newsletter.

Dr. Elizabeth Ragan, SU archaeology professor, along with several of her students, sort artifacts in the Nabb Center's conference room. The archaeologists unearthed the artifacts at a dig they performed in Somerset County.

Dr. Patricia Emerson of Atlanta, GA, left, drove to the Nabb Center to donate furniture and other items from the Caulk family store in Sharptown on March 20. Among the items she donated were a Waterbury Regulator Clock and a jug from the family store.

This painting is a self-portrait done by Clara Gunby, donated by Charlotte Gunby Stiles of Naples, FL.

Jonathan Kaicher of Isla Morada, FL, center, Charlotte Gunby Stiles, right, of Naples, FL, and Rebecca Miller, left, Director of the Nabb Center, review historical information on Clara Gunby.

Students Visit Nabb Center To Perform Research On Eastern Shore Settlers

Students in grades five and six visited the Nabb Center for two days as part of a weeklong historic research camp held at Pemberton Hall in August. The students examined historical documents and 18th-century artifacts. The Center provided staff and documents for the 14 students to do primary research on early Eastern Shore settlers. Pat Taylor, a board member for the Center and a member of the Pemberton Hall Foundation, organized the event and prepared the materials for the students. She assigned each student an 18th-century colonist to research. The students were given information on their subject and had to locate original documents such as wills, inventories and land patents. After collecting the materials, the students gave a short presentation on their subject. Taylor was assisted by Bill Wilson, the history coordinator and chair for the Pemberton Hall Foundation; Dr. Beth Ragan, Salisbury University archaeology professor; and Thelma Merrill, head of education at Pemberton. The Maryland Department of Education and the Pemberton Hall Foundation sponsored the workshop.

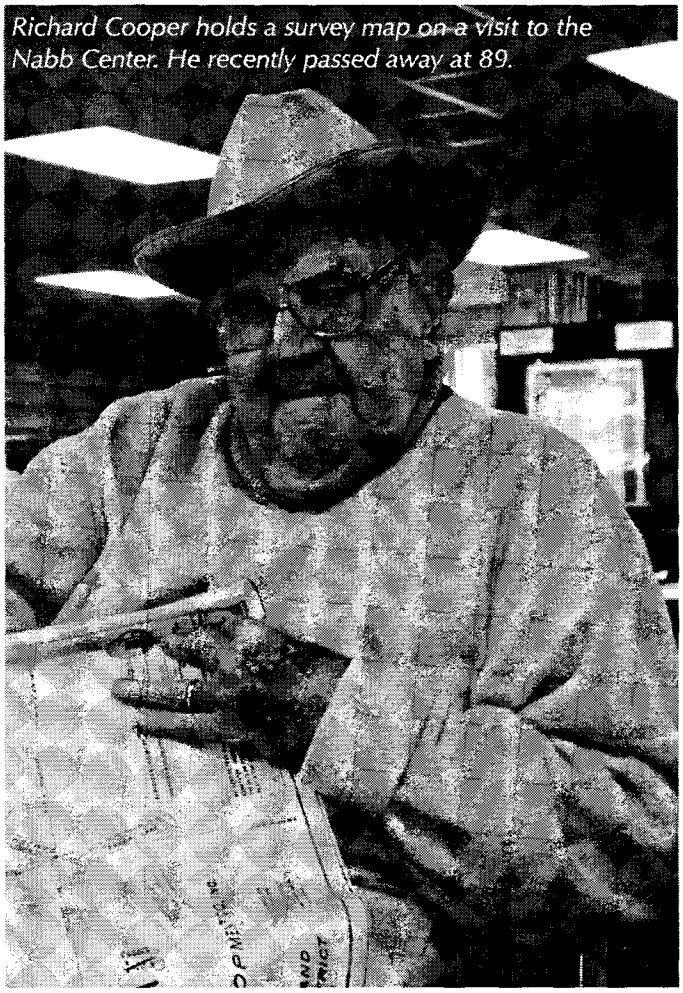
Pemberton Research Coordinator Pat Taylor, right, poses for a group shot with her students. The children spent two days at the Nabb Center doing research on Eastern Shore Colonial settlers.

Thelma Merrill, head of education at Pemberton, helps several students get started on their research.

Thelma Merrill, head of education at Pemberton, helps students make sense of Colonial inventory they found on microfilm.

Richard Cooper: Historian Remembered

by Michael Schaefer



Richard Cooper holds a survey map on a visit to the Nabb Center. He recently passed away at 89.

A deep grasp of history, a keen attention to detail, and an outgoing nature enabled Richard Cooper to reconstruct the past 400 years of life and culture on the Eastern Shore, according to his friends.

Cooper, who was an emeritus Nabb Center board member, will not only be remembered for his regular columns in *The Daily Times* and for the books he wrote, but also for his special character that brought life and intrigue to the history of the Eastern Shore. Cooper passed away at 89.

A surveyor by profession, Cooper dedicated a large part of his life to preserving the history of the Shore through writing. Long-time friend and Nabb board member David Nutter said Cooper realized how important it was that Eastern Shore residents know their past.

"People need to know what happened before them. The future and present are based on the past," Nutter said.

Cooper had a way of breathing life into the past, Nutter added. He recalled several years ago when the two men went exploring Wicomico County.

Nutter picked up Cooper at his home in Tony Tank and the two spent the day touring Salisbury, Pemberton and the neck of land between the Wicomico and Nanticoke rivers. At each stop Cooper and Nutter discussed the history of each site.

Cooper had years of experience recalling old Eastern Shore tales. In addition to his regular newspaper columns, he wrote several books. In 1987, he published his first book, *Profile of a Colonial Community*. In 1991, he published his second book, *Salisbury in Times Gone By*. Later in 1994, he published his third book, *Portrait of Salisbury, Maryland*.

Cooper was not one to limit himself to a particular writing style. At the time of his death he was working on a historical novel based on life in the 18th century. In the semi-autobiographical work, Cooper based the book on the Waller side of his family who lived in Delmar.

While the novel has not been completed, several critics have previewed early drafts of the book to provide Cooper with feedback.

Pat Taylor, who is on the Nabb Center Board, recently read the book. She said the book helped Cooper understand his family's roots and the events they endured as early settlers.

Regardless of his writing style, those who knew Cooper had full faith in his historical knowledge. Nutter said he believes Cooper's interest in history stems from his deep family connections with his Waller ancestors. The Wallers were early settlers to the Eastern Shore and have a rich history dating back to the English Civil War.

Cooper's interests did not lie solely in the past. He was concerned about the future of the Eastern Shore and took leadership roles to help ensure its status as "The Land of Pleasant Living."

Communities across the Shore and Maryland have recognized Cooper for his leadership roles. He was a co-recipient of the Maryland Historical Trust Award in 1989 and in 1993 was appointed the official historian of Salisbury.

As a civic leader he took pride in making his community better, Nutter said.

Nutter recalled several years ago when he and Cooper helped to raise funds to get a commemorative plaque placed at Green Hill Church in memory of the Rev. John Hewitt–the first ordained Anglican priest on the Eastern Shore.

Just as Hewitt was commemorated, so will Cooper be commemorated. Cooper's books, articles and his civic work have ensured him a place in Delmarva history.

The Chesapeake Name Game

by T. Aaron Horner

Over the years, many places on the Delmarva Peninsula have changed their names, some more than once. They include its rivers, islands, towns and even streets. Fruitland, named for the canning and shipping of its strawberries, was originally called Forktown. Pocomoke, which takes its name from the nearby river, once was called Newtown. In the mid-19th century, Methodists, led by Rev. Joshua Thomas, changed the name of Devil's Island to Deal Island.

However, some have attributed the origins of place names based on erroneous information. For example, Smith Island is not named for the legendary Capt. John Smith as many have assumed. Rather, the island is named after Henry Smith. Other places too have fallen victim to false information. During the 18th century, Courtney's Island was renamed Holland's Island after its owner Holland Haynie. Some incorrectly believe that Holland's Island was named after a box of Holland Gin that once floated on its shore.

Naming places on the Eastern Shore started in the summer of 1608 when Capt. Smith made two expeditions up the Chesapeake Bay. As a member of the governing body of the newly created Virginia Colony, Smith was exploring the Bay to find a route through the Americas to the Pacific Ocean for English trade. Along Smith's voyage, he encountered numerous Indian tribes and an environment filled with abundant vegetation and wildlife. He also witnessed an area filled with small creeks, rivers, inlets and bays. Afterward, Smith created a detailed map of the region.

Prior to Smith, little or no exploration of the Bay had taken place. Thus, the new territory had few or no place names. As Smith and his party explored the Bay, they designated names to areas they visited. Some places were named after those individuals who accompanied Smith. The Russell Isles, named after Dr. Walter Russell, include the archipelago of Bloodsworth, South Marsh, Smith and Tangier islands. Smith named Calvert Cliffs in honor of his mother's family, the Rickards. Other places were named after events experienced by the expedition. Limbo Straights received its named after Smith encountered a terrible storm; today it is called Hoopers Straights. Stingray Isle, located at the mouth of the Rappahannock River, was the location where Capt. Smith nearly lost his life during a stingray attack. Certain areas received their names based on environmental features. Smith called the Patapsco River in Baltimore the Bolus River because of the type of clay it displayed. Bolus, or Bole-Armenia, is a type of clay that contains medicinal properties and is red, brown or yellow in color. Though many of our Shore rivers have Indian names, during Smith's lifetime, they had different Indian names. The Wighcocomoco became the Pocomoke, the Kuskarawaock became the Nanticoke and the Tockwough became the Sassafras.

Comparing the map of John Smith with a current map would be very difficult unless one knows the region well. Today, as many Americans struggle with their knowledge of geography, it is even more difficult for them to understand their history as changes in place names have occurred, not only here on the Eastern Shore, but elsewhere in our country.

Today, the Indians are gone, replaced by small communities of watermen and their families. The forests and wildlife are not as plentiful as they once were. Much of the shoreline has changed due to the rising sea level and so have the place names Capt. Smith pinned to the areas he visited.

Currency Conversion

by T. Aaron Horner

Have you ever sat and wondered how many U.S. dollars it would take to equal one British Pound? How about Russian Rubles? Additionally, have you ever wondered how much a dollar today was worth in 1945 or in 1865? For most of us, we cannot sit down and figure the conversion off the top of our heads. Fortunately, there are Web sites that will do the calculation for you.

At www.ex.ac.uk/~RDavies/arian/current/howmuch.html, titled Current Value of Old Money, researchers can convert international, English/European and U.S. denominations to other currencies. The site also includes other financial information such as the prices of items found in Southampton, England, in 1625, the cost of living in 18th century London, and the U.S. inflation rate. At the bottom of this page, one will find the printed sources used by this Web site.

There also are sites for prices of items during Biblical and Roman times. This site works best by calculating data for a fixed time such as a year, rather than long time spans such as a decade or century. Comparing quality of living for two different time periods can be difficult.

Another Web site, www.oanda.com/convert/fxhistory, titled FXHistory: Historical Currency Exchange Rates, can help researchers convert currencies. You can select the language and the range of dates you want to calculate. These sites are listed under the "History" section on the "Links" page of the Nabb Center's Web site. So now when someone tells you "back in my day, this cost..." you can check and see if that person isn't pullin' your leg.

Nabb Research Center Publications

____ 1. *Court Records of Somerset County Maryland 1674*
Wilmer O. Lankford $12.00

____ 2. *Essays on Delmarva's Wartime Experience 1861-1945, Vol. 1*, Edward F. Jones. $10.00

____ 3. *Essays on Early Somerset and Worcester Counties, 1666-1700, Vol. 2*, Edward F. Jones $10.00

____ 4. *Graveyards and Gravestones of Wicomico*
John E. Jacob $15.00

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____ 6. *A Listing of Slaves and Indentured Servants 1668-1720*
Edward F. Jones $7.00

____ 7. *Lower Eastern Shore Patriot* (Bicentennial Edition)
$15.00

____ 8. *Marriage and Baptismal Records of the Union Methodist Episcopal Church* (1859-1943)
by Carlene Schmick & Robert Peloquin $15.00

____ 9. *Memories*, Esther Winder Polk $9.00

____ 10. *Potpourri From Our Files: Family Records of the Lower Eastern Shore, Vol. 1* $20.00

____ 11. *Potpourri From Our Files: Family Records of the Lower Eastern Shore, Vol. 2* $20.00

____ 12. *Potpourri From Our Files: Family Records of the Lower Eastern Shore, Vol. 3* $20.00

____ 13. *Volume I: Somerset County Inventories: 1666-1700*
G. Ray Thompson
(temporarily out of stock) $20.00

____ 14. *Volume II: Somerset County Inventories: 1701-1720*
G. Ray Thompson $20.00

____ 15. *Volume III: Somerset County Inventories: 1721-1740*
G. Ray Thompson $15.00

____ 16. *Volume IV: Somerset County Inventories 1741-1832*
G. Ray Thompson $15.00

____ 17. *Assorted Wills and Deeds of Gift of the Lower* Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia 1648-*1845*
G. Ray Thompson $10.00

____ 18. *Inventories of Women of Old Somerset on Maryland's Eastern Shore 1677-1726*
Jennifer Lovellette and G. Ray Thompson $9.00

____ 19. *Inventories of Somerset County, MD 1666-1720: A Locator Index With User*, Edward F. Jones $10.00

____ 20. *Studies in African-American History, Vol. 1: A Comparative Study of the Perceptions of the Media Relating to Lynchings on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*
Cezar Tampoya Jackson $15.00

____ 21. *They Lived in Somerset, Vol. 1: 1664-1700*
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____ 22. *They Lived in Somerset, Vol. II: 1700-1725*
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____ 23. *They Lived in Somerset,Vol. III: 1726-1750*
Wilmer O. Lankford $20.00

____ 24. *They Lived in Somerset, Vol. IV: 1751-1775* NEW!
Wilmer O. Lankford $20.00

____ 25. *Wartime Experience on Maryland's Eastern Shore: 1861-1945*, Edward F. Jones $10.00

____ 26. *Wootten's Delmarva: A Glimpse of Eastern Shore Life through the Photographer's Eye*
Orlando Wootten $15.00

____ 27. *The Littleton Heritage*,
Matthew Wise $30.00

____ 28. *Somerset County 1734 Debt Book* NEW!
T. Aaron Horner $20.00

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Placing the Past

by Colin McAllister

Double Mills, Mardela, Wicomico County

Wicomico River, looking toward Whitehaven Hotel, Wicomico County

Adkins Mill Pond, Powellville, Wicomico County

Wetipquin Bridge, Tyaskin, Wicomico County

photos by Donna Messick

With roots very deep in our Lower Shore sandy soils, I did not feel a simple GIS project to map old locations would reveal all that much. It was a paying job with fresh air and a radio. My simply stated objective was to find precise 1870s locations on the present day landscape. I thought that Delmarva was firmly established well before the 1870s and this shouldn't be too difficult.

I began by comparing the old 1870s election district maps with modern day maps and attempted to find similar locations. Precision, precision, precision was the prime objective. I needed to be within 3 feet of an old location. Buildings, churches, cemeteries were all too large to be accurate. I needed road intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, basically the old crossroads. Having plotted my points, I set my course and with a state vehicle and my trusty GPS, made headway like a colt with blinders.

The results and my travels were an awakening. My simple job became a true enlightenment. I stepped back into the life of Lower Shore farmers, watermen, peddlers, travelers, criminals and shopkeepers. I found the crossroads, not just the precise points of intersection, but the crossroads of conversation, bartering, transaction, gathering, preaching and even hangings. I could hear the joyful conversation, smell the produce, see the oysters and game of long ago. I tied down the 1870s in today's space, anchored the Lower Shore without Routes 13, 50, 113, Crisfield Highway or even Deal Island Road. I found my crossroads in the cypress swamps, salt marsh and in the little hamlets of Whitehaven, Powellville and Byrdtown. The crossroads were thanking me too, places now not forgotten, crossroads of renewed importance, waiting patiently for new visitors and a resurrection of spirit.

In the end, I almost wanted to return my small earnings. I was honestly sad it was over. Then I thought northwest to Dorchester and south to Accomack - many more crossroads, many more conversations.

Colin McAllister is an undergraduate student at Salisbury University. He worked on the geography portion of American Origins collecting GPS coordinates for the maps.

Books for Sale

Several donors of books have urged the Nabb Research Center to offer any duplicates in their donation for sale to provide funds for new purchases. Checking our duplicate book inventory, we find we already have two copies (one shelf, one reserve) of each of the following monographs:

TITLE	PRICE	QUANT.
Chesapeake Bay (1953) M. V. Brewington	($15)	1
Profile of a Colonial Community on Maryland's Eastern Shore (1986) Richard W. Cooper, signed by author	($45)	3
Talbot County: A History (1983) Dickson J. Preston	($135)	1
Wicomico County History (1981) George H. Corddry, signed by author	($36)	1
Historic Salisbury Maryland - Bicentennial Edition (1932) Charles J. Truitt	($50)	1
Historic Salisbury Updated 1662-1982 (1982) Charles J. Truitt, signed by author	($25)	1
1856 Personal Property Tax for Northampton County, Virginia (1996) Transcribed by Doris Adler	($20)	1
Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors from Northampton County, Virginia (1995) Compiled by Stratton Nottingham	($45)	1
Salisbury in Times Gone By (1991) Richard W. Cooper, signed by author	($45)	1
Portrait of Salisbury, Maryland through the 1900s (1994) Richard W. Cooper, signed by author	($45)	1
Salisbury and Wicomico County: A Pictorial History (1981) John E. Jacob Jr., signed by author	($45)	1
Rails Along the Chesapeake (1979) John C. Hayman, signed by author	($125)	1
Rails Along the Chesapeake (1979) John C. Hayman	($115)	1
Worcester County Maryland's Arcadia (1977) Dr. Reginal V. Truitt and Dr. Millard G. Les Callette, signed by authors	($75)	1
What's Past Is Prologue: The Wicomico County Centennial 1867-1967 (1967) Jane W. Bailey, Editor	($20)	1
Arapahoe Politics, 1851-1978 (1982) Loretta Fowler	($12)	1
Beautiful Swimmers: Watermen, Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay (1976) William W. Warner	($30)	1
The Engineer in War: From Guadalcanal and Peace (1996) Philip C. Pete Cooper, signed by author	($20)	1
18th Century Structures of the Lower Eastern Shore (1976) Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission, Janet Taylor Smith, Editor	($25)	1
Maud and Other Family Legends Victor H. Laws	($15)	1
State of Maryland, Department of Economic Community and Planning *Lower Eastern Shore Patriot - Bicentennial Edition* (1976) The Bicentennial Committee of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester	($20)	1

The Nabb Research Center is pleased to offer these monographs at the above-referenced prices to our members only. The caveat is that you have to get them while we've got them so don't ponder too long. The books will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis, with no member discount on this rare offer. E-mail and telephone reserves will be accepted. If the check is not received within seven business days of the reserve, the book will be sold to the next in line. Telephone 410-543-6312 or e-mail rcdhac@salisbury.edu with your reservation.

New Book Accessions 2003

1907 Salisbury Maryland City Directory, Leslie & Neil Keddie
25 Thrilling Legends of Virginia, Robert F. Nelson
Abstracts from the Land Records of Dorchester County Volume G 1767 - 1771, James A. McAllister
Abstracts from the Land Records of Dorchester County Volume I 1782 - 1790, James A. McAllister
Abstracts from the Land Records of Dorchester County Volume J 1790 - 1795, James A. McAllister
Abstracts of the Propriety Records of the Provincial Court of Maryland 1637 - 1658, V.L. Skinner
African-American Education in Delaware: A History Through Photographs, 1865-1930, Bradley Skelcher
Allegany County, Maryland 1800 Census, Maryland Genealogical Society, Inc.
Alleghany County, Maryland: 1800 Census, Raymond B. Clark Jr.
American Album: How We Looked and Lived in a Vanished U. S. A., Jensen, Kerr, Belsky
Caesar Rodney Patriot: Delaware's Hero for All Times and All Seasons, William P. Frank
Calvert County Maryland 1800 Census, Maryland Genealogical Society, Inc.
Cambridge, Gloria Johnson-Mansfield & A. M. Foley
Captain Thomas Macdonough: Delaware Born Hero of the Battle of Lake Champlain, Virginia M. Burdick
Charles L. Terry Jr., Ned Davis
Charles Roane the Immigrant and His Wife Frances Roane: The First of the Name in Virginia Settled in Gloucester County, Virginia in 1664, Jefferson Sinclair Selde Jr.
The Chesapeake Bay: An Atlas of Natural Resources, Alice Lippson
Civil War Drafted Men at Camp Hicks Easton Maryland 1862-1863, Trish Surles
Closeups of Early Dorchester County History, Calvin, Mowbray; Maurice Rimpo
Collecting Dead Relatives, Laverne Galeener-Moore
Company H 115th Inf. Reg. 29th Div. Roster Between Feb. 3, 1941 and Nov. 1945, Bumbaugh, Robinson, Hoover
Creating Community: Hispanic Migration to Rural Delaware, Katherine Borland
The Delaware Continentals, 1776-1783, Christopher Ward
Delaware During the Civil War: a Political History, Harold Bell Hancock
Delaware: The First State, Carol E. Hoffecker
Distribution of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation in Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries, 1985, Robert Orth
Dorchester County, Foley, A. M. Foley; Gloria Johnson-Mansfield
Dr. Thomas Wynne's Legacy, Lynn Larsen
Addendum to Dr. Thomas Wynne's Legacy, Joseph A. Dickerson
DuPont from the Banks of the Brandywine to Miracles of Science, Adrian Kinnane
Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson, Thomas Jackson Arnold
East of the Mason-Dixon Line: A History of the Delaware Boundaries, Roger E. Nathan
Eastern Shore General Court Criminal Judgments 1782 - 1785 & 1777 - 1778, Leslie & Neil Keddie
Eastern Shore of Maryland 1890 Census to Civil War Veterans, Jody Powell
The Eastern Shore of Virginia 1603 - 1964, Nora Miller Turman
Elbert N. Carvel, Roger A. Martin
The English in America: Virginia, Maryland and the Carolinas, J. A. Doyle
Forum on Land Use and Land Cover, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fowke Family Tree, Ray Fowke
Eastern Shore General Court Criminal Judgments Vol. 2 1779 - 1778, Neil Keddie
Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War, Kenneth W. Munden and Henry Putney
Guidelines for Protecting Non Tidal Wetlands in the Critical Area, Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission
Historic Houses of the South, Southern Accents
Index: Brief History and Genealogy of the Hearne Family, William Hearne
Kent County Maryland Court Land Records 1648 - 1675 Libers A & B, Leslie & Neil Keddie
Kent County Maryland Court Land Records 1676 - 1692 Libers A & B &K, Leslie & Neil Keddie
The Life Story of Rev. Francis Makemie, Rev. Issac Marshall Page
Manokin River Watershed Characterization, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Maryland in World War II Register of Service Personnel Volumes I - V, War Rec. Division of the Maryland Historical Society
Maryland Revolutionary War Records 1727 - 1851, Jody Powell
The Massey and Related Families, Robert Wilson
The Massie/Massey and Related Families, Robert Wilson
New Castle County Delaware Land Records 1755 - 1962, Carol J. Garrett
Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia, Vols. I & II, Bishop Meade
On Doing Local History, Carol Kammen
The Origins and History of St. Peter's Church 1637 - 1976, Rev. Edward B. Carley
Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography 1538 - 1900, William P. Filby (Editor)
Peter Oliver's Origin & Progress of the American Rebellion: A Tory View, Peter Oliver
Quaker Minutes of the Eastern Shore of Maryland: 1676-1779, F. Edward Wright
Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee, Captain Robert E. Lee
A Relation of Maryland, Andrew Whit
Reminiscence of a Town That Thought It Would Be a Metropolis: Delaware City, Delaware, William Wingate
Revolutionary War Graves Register: The National Society of the Sons of the American, Clovis H. Brakebill
Robert E. Lee: A Portrait: 1807 - 1861, Margaret Sanborn
Russell W. Peterson, Christopher L. Perry
Seat of Empire: The Political Role of Eighteenth Century Williamsburg, Carl Bridenbaugh
Sherman W. Tribbitt, Roger Martin
Ship Passengers Lists: the South (1538 - 1825), Carl Boyer
Somerset County Maryland Deed Book E. I. December 1735 - July 1737 Folios 1 - 195, Leslie & Neil Keddie
Somerset County Maryland Deed Book, E. I. August 1737 - Aug 1738, Leslie & Neil Keddie
Somerset County Maryland Judicial Records 1717 - 1718 with Memorandum, Frank Walczyk
Somerset County Maryland Wills Liber S. C. L. #5 1863 - 1870, Leslie & Neil Keddie
The Souls of Black Folk, W.E.B. DuBois
St. George's Parish Register 1689 - 1793, Bill & Martha Reamy
Status and Recent Trends of Wetlands in Five Mid-Atlantic States, Ralph W. Tiner
Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in American History, Vol. 1, the Colonial Period to Reconstruction, Larry Madaras, James M. SoRelle (Editors)
Talbot Memories of J. McKenny Willis, Jr., Douglas Hanks
Troubled in Mind: J. Saunders Redding's Early Years in Wilmington, Delaware, J. Saunders Redding
The United States Census Compendium, John D. Stemmons
Williamsburg Reproductions, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Worcester County Land Records Liber D 1756 - May 1760 CR37,384, Leslie & Neil Keddie
Worcester County Maryland Land Records Liber R 1796 September 1797 CR77,909, Leslie & Neil Keddie
World War One Remembered, Francis A. Ianni

Littleton Adventures Abroad

by Marilyn M. Lear

Rob and Marilyn Lear stand next to monument of Col. Nathaniel Littleton's ancestor who fought as a Royalist during the English Civil War.

As my husband and I traveled throughout England, we found that Matthew Wise's *The Littleton Heritage* (sold in the Nabb Center) proved to be a valuable resource in helping us to locate historical sites related to our family's past.

Once Rob and I arrived we set out to locate the tiny village of Shropshire where we read that Col. Nathaniel Littleton's grandfather was a rector at Munslow. This part of England is characterized by rolling hills in various shades of green, neat hedgerows, sheep and small stone houses.

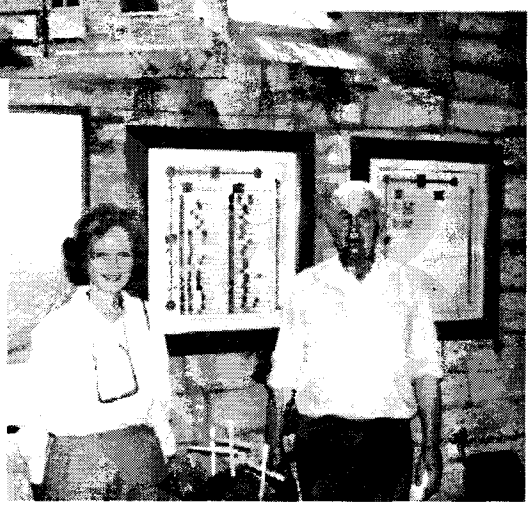
Munslow was easy to find, as was St. Michael's Church. Once we arrived, I explained to a volunteer that Rob and I were descendants (12th cousins) of the former rector, the Rev. John Littleton (c. 1505-1560). The volunteer showed us a list of the former clergy on a church wall where we found Littleton's name. We enjoyed looking around and tried to picture our family members there so long ago. The village and church are quite small and have changed little during the past 800 years.

Hopton Castle was part of a series of fortifications built along the Welsh/English border.

A few miles down the road to the west we had difficulty locating our second target, Hopton Castle. According to Wise, several family members were baptized at the castle including Nathaniel Littleton on the December 22, 1605. Today, only a gray stone tower remains of the castle. Hopton was part of a series of fortifications built along the Welsh/English border. Today there are only a handful of houses in the area.

The greatest surprise of our trip happened at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford University. Wise's notes indicated that Sir Edward Littleton graduated from Christ Church College and was buried there in 1642. After looking around in vain at the worn burial slabs inside the cathedral we decided to ask for help. A passerby showed us a towering granite and marble monument that was ornately carved and inscribed in Latin. The monument was about 12-feet tall and in superb condition. On one side was an elaborate carving denoting Littleton's position as "Lord Keeper of the Great Seal." We realized this man was the brother to our ancestor, Col. Nathaniel Littleton. His monument is part of a group of Cavalier monuments to Royalists who died during the English Civil War.

In the village of Shropshire is a small church named St. Michael's. It was here the Lear's read that Col. Nathaniel Littleton's grandfather was a rector.



Marilyn Lear stands next to a list of the former clergy who served at St. Michael's. Among the names is the Rev. John Littleton (c. 1505-1560).

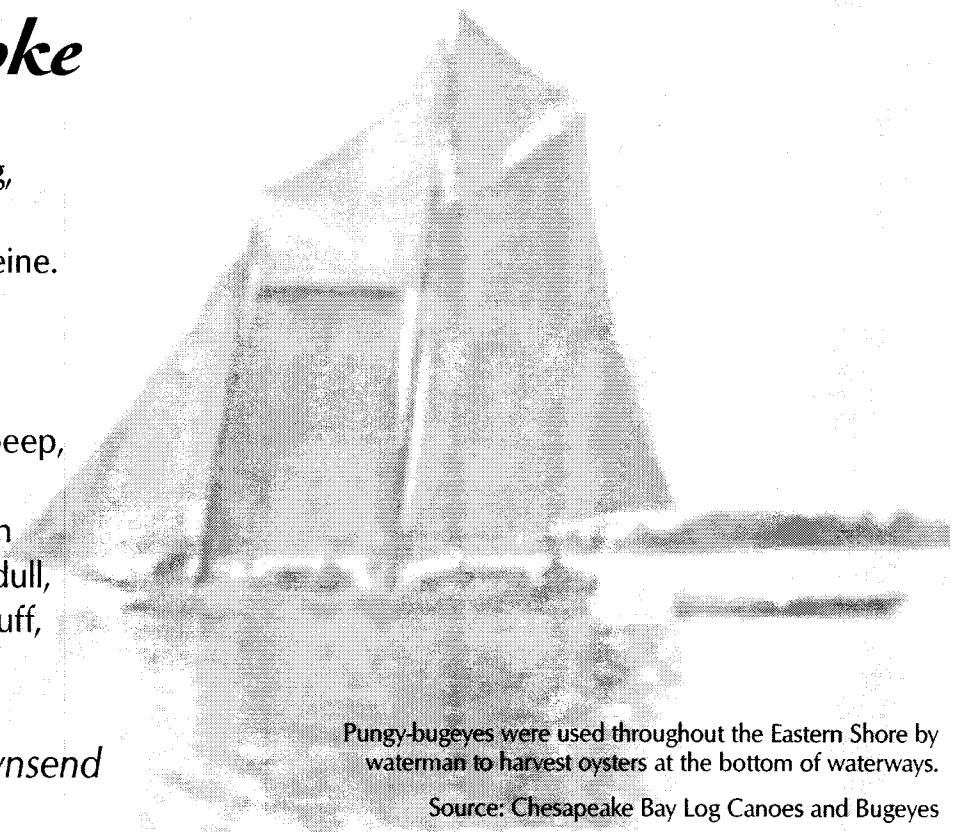
Marilyn M. Lear and her husband Rob traveled to England in May to explore their family's roots. The Lears are from Jacksonville, FL, and have strong ancestral ties to the Eastern Shore.

Land of Pocomoke

The pungy boats at anchor swing,
The long canoes were oystering,
And moving barges played the seine.
Along the beaches of Tangiers;
I heard the British drums again.

The world in this old nook may peep,
And think it listless and asleep;
But I have seen the world enough
To think its grandeur something dull,
And here were men of sterling stuff,
In their own era wonderful.

George Alfred Townsend



Pungy-bugeyes were used throughout the Eastern Shore by waterman to harvest oysters at the bottom of waterways.

Source: Chesapeake Bay Log Canoes and Bugeyes

Claim Your Royal Heritage

Get your copy of *The Littleton Heritage: Some Descendants of Colonel Nathaniel Littleton (1605-1654) of Northhampton County, Virginia and His Royal Forbears* by Dr. Matthew Wise at the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University.

This meticulously-researched history of the Littleton family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia is one of the most complete genealogies of the Littletons and descendant surnames, including:

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- Long
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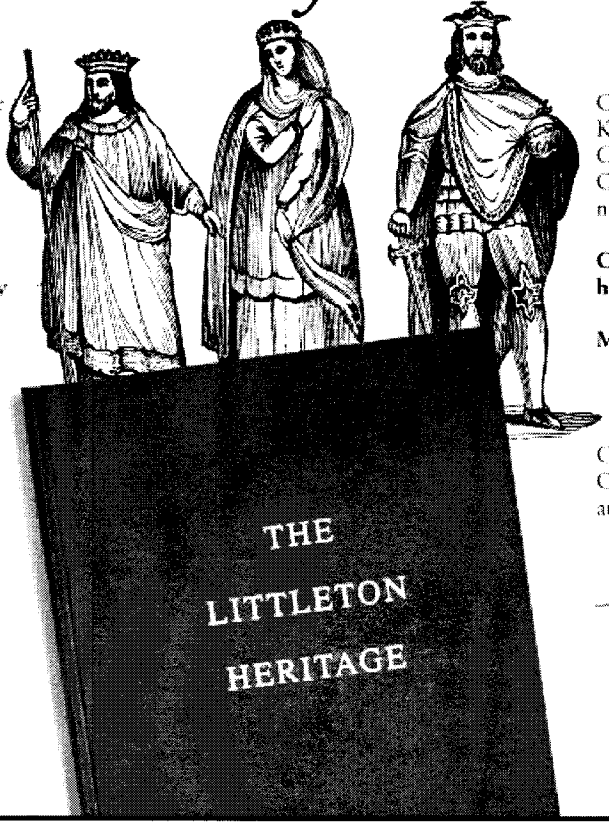
- Waters
- Whittington
- Wilson
- Winder

...and many others



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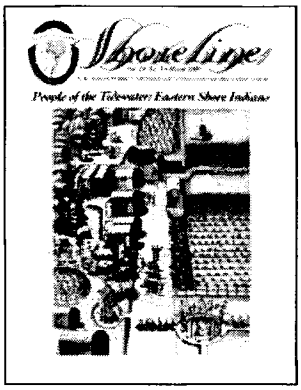

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Can you identify the Nabb Center Board Member seated in this 1947 photograph of the Skyliners? The band was based in Princess Anne.

Photo Quiz Answer:
Charles (Bert) Thornton of Frederick, MD.

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